

(43) International Publication Date
14 October 2004 (14.10.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/088627 A1(51) International Patent Classification⁷: G09G 3/32(21) International Application Number:
PCT/IB2004/000974

(22) International Filing Date: 26 March 2004 (26.03.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:
0307789.8 4 April 2003 (04.04.2003) GB(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V. [NL/NL];
Groenewoudseweg 1, NL-5621 BA Eindhoven (NL).

(72) Inventor; and

(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): FISH, David, A. [GB/GB]; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

(74) Agent: WILLIAMSON, Paul, L.; c/o Philips Intellectual Property & Standards, Cross Oak Lane, Redhill, Surrey RH1 5HA (GB).

(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, WIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

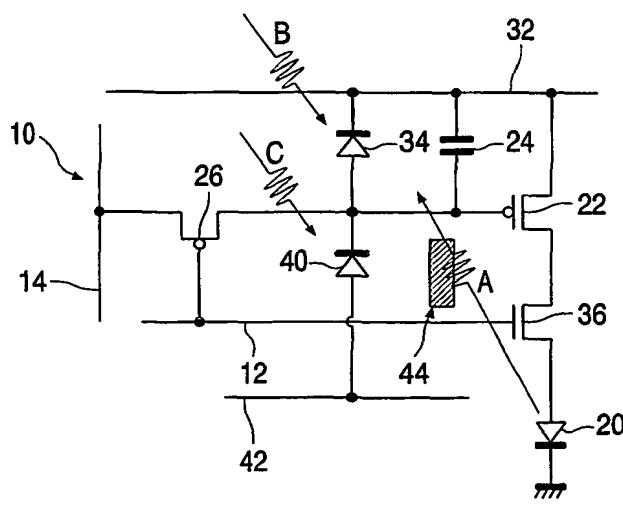
(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): WIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, WIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTROLUMINESCENT DISPLAY DEVICES



(57) Abstract: In an active matrix electroluminescent display device a storage capacitor (24) is provided in each pixel for storing a voltage to be used for addressing a drive transistor (22) which controls the illumination of the electroluminescent display element (20). A discharge photosensitive element (34) is provided for discharging the charge storage capacitor in dependence on the display element's light output. A further photosensitive element (40) is provided so as to cancel photocurrents produced in the discharge photosensitive element (34) as a result of light input to the discharge photosensitive element other than from the pixel's display element (20), the further photosensitive element being shielded (44) from light emitted by the display element while being exposed to light from other directions. Irregularities in the display output due to the effects of the unwanted light inputs to the discharge photosensitive elements are then avoided.



Published:

— *with international search report*

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

DESCRIPTION

ELECTROLUMINESCENT DISPLAY DEVICES

5 This invention relates to electroluminescent display devices, particularly active matrix display devices having an array of pixels comprising light-emitting electroluminescent display elements and thin film transistors. More particularly, the invention is concerned with an active matrix electroluminescent display device whose pixels include light sensing elements
10 which are responsive to light emitted by the display elements and used to control energisation of the display elements.

15 Matrix display devices employing electroluminescent, light-emitting, display elements are well known. The display elements commonly comprise organic thin film electroluminescent elements, (OLEDs), including polymer materials (PLEDs), or else light emitting diodes (LEDs). These materials typically comprise one or more layers of a semiconducting conjugated polymer sandwiched between a pair of electrodes, one of which is transparent and the other of which is of a material suitable for injecting holes or electrons into the
20 polymer layer.

25 The display elements in such display devices are current driven and a conventional, analogue, drive scheme involves supplying a controllable current to the display element. Typically a current source transistor is provided as part of the pixel configuration, with the gate voltage supplied to the current source transistor determining the current through the electroluminescent (EL) display element. A storage capacitor holds the gate voltage after the addressing phase. An example of such a pixel circuit is described in EP-A-0717446.

30 Each pixel thus comprises the EL display element and associated driver circuitry. The driver circuitry has an address transistor which is turned on by a row address pulse on a row conductor. When the address transistor is turned on, a data voltage on a column conductor can pass to the remainder of the

pixel. In particular, the address transistor supplies the column conductor voltage to the current source, comprising the drive transistor and the storage capacitor connected to the gate of the drive transistor. The column, data, voltage is provided to the gate of the drive transistor and the gate is held at 5 this voltage by the storage capacitor even after the row address pulse has ended. The drive transistor in this circuit is implemented as a p-channel TFT, so that the storage capacitor holds the gate-source voltage fixed. This results in a fixed source-drain current through the transistor, which therefore provides the desired current source operation of the pixel.

10 In the above basic pixel circuit, differential aging, or degradation, of the LED material can give rise to variations in image quality across a display.

Improved voltage-addressed pixel circuits which can compensate for the aging of the LED material have been proposed. These include a light sensing element which is responsive to the light output of the display element 15 and acts to leak stored charge on the storage capacitor in response to the light output, so as to control the integrated light output of the display element during the drive period which follows the initial addressing of the pixel. Examples of this type of pixel configuration are described in detail in WO 01/20591 and EP 1 096 466. In an example embodiment, a photodiode in the pixel discharges 20 the gate voltage stored on the storage capacitor and the EL display element ceases to emit when the gate voltage on the drive transistor reaches the threshold voltage, at which time the storage capacitor stops discharging. The rate at which charge is leaked from the photodiode is a function of the display element output, so that the photodiode serves as a light-sensitive feedback 25 device.

With this arrangement, the light output from a display element independent of the EL display element efficiency and aging compensation is thereby provided. Moreover, the pixel circuit is also able to compensate for the effects of voltage drops which can occur in the current carrying lines supplying 30 the pixels. Reference is made to the paper "A comparison of pixel circuits for Active Matrix Polymer/Organic LED Displays" by D.A.Fish et al., 32.1, SID 02 Digest, May 2002.

While such a technique has been shown to be very effective in achieving a high quality display which suffers less from non-uniformities over a period of time, by counteracting differing LED aging effects that lead to a reduction in the light output level from a pixel for a given drive current level, it 5 has been found that problems with pixel outputs can still be experienced. These can be in the form of corrupted display outputs or irregularities in pixel output brightnesses. It is an object of the present invention to provide an improved pixel circuit of the above described type.

10 According to one aspect of the invention, there is provided an active matrix electroluminescent display device comprising an array of display pixels, each pixel comprising:

an electroluminescent display element;
a drive transistor for driving a current through the display element;
15 a storage capacitor for storing a voltage to be used for addressing the drive transistor;
a discharge photosensitive element for discharging the storage capacitor in dependence on the light output of the display element; and
a further photosensitive element which is shielded from light emitted by
20 the display element while being exposed to light from other directions, and which is connected so as to cancel photocurrents produced in the discharge photosensitive element by light from the other directions.

It has been recognized that the discharge photosensitive element in the known pixel circuit can respond to light input other than that intended from the 25 EL display element, causing unnecessary discharging of the storage capacitor and consequently affecting detrimentally the performance of the pixel circuit in providing the desired compensation for aging effects. In the pixel of the invention, the further photosensitive element is used so as to counteract the effects of such unwanted light input to the discharge photosensitive element by 30 being arranged to sense this unwanted light input and correct for the effects of such on the discharge photosensitive element in discharging the storage capacitor. This unwanted light input may be, for example, light entering the

pixel concerned from the display elements of adjacent pixels as a form of optical cross-talk, or light entering the pixel from external sources, notably ambient light.

The invention offers the additional advantage that the operation of the 5 further photosensitive element can be effective as well in counteracting the effects of leakage currents which may occur in the discharge photosensitive element and also contribute to a degradation in the performance of the known pixel circuit.

As in conventional pixel circuits, the drive transistor is connected 10 between a power supply line and the display element.

In a preferred embodiment, the storage capacitor is connected between the power supply line and the gate of the drive transistor, the discharge photosensitive element is connected between the gate of the drive transistor and the power supply line, in parallel with the storage capacitor, and the 15 further photosensitive element is connected between the gate of the drive transistor and a reference potential, for example ground, the discharge photosensitive element and the further photosensitive element thus being connected in series between the power supply line and the reference potential line. In this arrangement, photocurrents generated by unwanted light falling on 20 both photosensitive elements, and also leakage currents in these elements, flow from the power supply line to the reference potential (e.g. ground) line and so do not participate in the discharge of the storage capacitor. Such discharge is then determined solely by the photocurrent produced in the discharge photosensitive element in response to photons received thereby from its 25 associated display element.

In the case of the pixels being arranged in rows with the pixels in a row being selected in an addressing phase by a selection (gating) signal supplied via a respective row address conductor, as in conventional devices, the reference potential for a row of pixels may conveniently be provided by a row 30 address conductor associated with an adjacent pixel row. In conventional drive schemes, the selection address signal for a row of pixels is applied to the associated row address conductor for a relatively short row address period,

typically corresponding to the frame period divided by the number of rows of pixels in the array, and for the remainder of the frame period the row address conductor is usually held at low, fixed, potential, typically ground.

5 The discharge photosensitive elements and further photosensitive element preferably comprise photodiodes. Diode-connected transistors may be utilized instead. It is envisaged that other kinds of photosensitive elements, for example photoresistors, could be used although in terms of pixel circuit performance are likely to be less attractive.

10 As in conventional devices, each pixel can further include an address transistor connected between an input signal line and an input to the pixel coupled to the gate of the drive transistor. Thus, a conventional voltage addressed current source pixel can be implemented. However, the invention may alternatively be used with current addressed pixels, for example using current mirror pixel circuits.

15 As regards construction, the display device preferably comprises a substrate on which the active matrix pixel circuitry, comprising the pixel drive transistors, storage capacitors and photosensitive elements and associated addressing lines, is carried, and with an electroluminescent layer of the display elements overlying the active matrix circuitry. The photosensitive elements of 20 a pixel are preferably arranged close together so that they experience similar light inputs, other than directly from the electroluminescent layer at the pixel. In an example embodiment, the display elements comprise a transparent electrode layer between the electroluminescent layer and the active matrix circuitry, and a light shield is arranged in each pixel between the further 25 photosensitive element and the overlying electroluminescent layer to prevent light directly from photosensitive element reaching the further photosensitive element. This form of construction can readily be achieved without complicating fabrication of the device and at minimal cost.

30 Embodiments of active matrix electroluminescent (EL) display devices in accordance with the invention will now be described, by way of example, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:-

Figure 1 is a simplified schematic diagram of an embodiment of active matrix EL display device according to the invention;

Figure 2 shows the equivalent circuit of a known form of pixel;

5 Figure 3 shows the equivalent circuit of a typical pixel in the device of Figure 1;

Figure 4 is a schematic cross-sectional view through a pixel of the device of Figure 1;

10 Figure 5 is a schematic cross-sectional view through a pixel in another embodiment of display device according to the invention; and

Figures 6 and 7 illustrate further examples of pixel circuits in accordance with the present invention.

15 The same reference numbers are used throughout the Figures to denote the same, or similar, parts. It will be appreciated that the Figures are merely schematic and not drawn to scale. In particular, relative dimensions and proportions of parts may be shown exaggerated or reduced for the sake of clarity.

20 Referring to Figure 1, the active matrix EL display device comprises a panel having a row and column matrix array of regularly-spaced pixels, denoted by the blocks 10, each comprising an EL display element 20 and an associated driving circuit controlling the current through the display element, and which are located at the intersections between crossing sets of row (selection) and column (data) address conductors, or lines, 12 and 14. Only a 25 few pixels are shown here for simplicity. The pixels 10 are addressed via the sets of address conductors by a peripheral drive circuit comprising a row, scanning, driver circuit 16 and a column, data, driver circuit 18 connected to the ends of the respective conductor sets.

30 Each row of pixels is addressed in turn in a frame period by means of a selection pulse signal applied by the circuit 16 to the relevant row conductor 12 so as to program the pixels of the row with respective data signals, determining their individual display outputs in a frame period which follows the

address period, according to the respective data signals supplied in parallel by the circuit 18 to the column conductors 14. As each row is addressed, the data signals are supplied by the circuit 18 in appropriate synchronisation.

The EL display element 20 of each pixel comprises an organic light emitting diode, represented here as a diode element (LED), and comprising a pair of electrodes between which one or more active layers of organic electroluminescent light-emitting material are sandwiched. In this particular embodiment the material comprises a polymer LED material, although other organic electroluminescent materials, such as low molecular weight materials, could be used. The display elements of the array are carried, together with their associated active matrix circuitry, on the surface of an insulating substrate. The substrate is of transparent material, for example glass, and either the cathodes or anodes of the display elements 20 are formed of a transparent conductive material, such as ITO, so that light generated by the electroluminescent layer is transmitted through these electrodes. Typical examples of suitable organic conjugated polymer materials which can be used for the EL material are described in WO 96/36959. Typical examples of other, low molecular weight, organic materials are described in EP-A-0717446.

Each pixel 10 comprises a driving circuit including a drive transistor, here in the form of a low temperature polysilicon TFT (thin film transistor), which is responsible for controlling the current through the display element 20 on the basis of a data signal voltage applied to the pixel. A data signal voltage for a pixel is supplied via a column conductor 14 which is shared by a respective column of pixels. The column conductor 14 is coupled to the gate of the current-controlling drive TFT through an address TFT in the pixel driving circuit and the gates for the address TFTs of a row pixels are all connected to a respective, common, row address conductor 12.

Although not shown in Figure 1, each row of pixels 10 also shares, in conventional manner, a common voltage supply line held at a predetermined potential, and normally provided as a continuous electrode common to all pixels, and a respective common current line. The display element 20 and the drive TFT are connected in series between the voltage supply line and the

common current line. The voltage supply line, for example, may be at ground potential and the common current line at a positive potential around, for example, 12V with respect thereto.

Figure 2 illustrates a known form of pixel circuit, as described in WO 01/20591 for example. Here the drive TFT and the address TFT are referenced at 22 and 26 respectively, and the voltage supply line and current supply line are referred at 30 and 32 respectively. When the address TFT 26 is turned on in a respective row address period by a selection (gating) pulse signal applied to the row conductor 12, a voltage forming a data signal on the column conductor 14 can pass to the remainder of the pixel. In particular, the TFT 26 supplies the column conductor voltage to a current source circuit 25 which comprises the drive TFT 22 and a storage capacitor 24 connected between the gate of the TFT 22 and the current supply line 32. The column voltage is provided to the gate of the TFT 22 and the gate is held at this voltage, constituting a stored control value, by the storage capacitor 24 even after the address TFT 26 is turned off at the end of the row address period. The drive TFT 22 is here implemented as a P-channel TFT and the capacitor 24 holds the gate – source voltage. This results in a fixed source – drain current through the TFT 22, which therefore provides the desired current source operation of the pixel. Electrical current through the display element 20 is regulated by the drive TFT 22 and is a function of the gate voltage on the TFT 22, which is dependent upon the stored control value determined by the column voltage, data, signal. At the end of the row address period, the address transistor 26 turns off, and the voltage retained by the storage capacitor 24 maintains the operation of the display element during the subsequent drive period before the pixel is addressed again in the next frame period.

The voltage between the gate of the TFT 22 and the common current line 32 thus determines the current passing through the display element 20, and in turn controls the instantaneous light output level of the pixel.

Each row of pixels is addressed in turn in this manner in a respective row address period to load each row of pixels in sequence with their respective

data signals and set the pixels to provide desired display outputs for the subsequent drive period, corresponding approximately to a frame period, until they are next addressed.

The pixel circuit further includes photosensitive element, in the form of a discharge photodiode 34, which is reversed biased and responsive to light emitted by the display element 20 and which acts to decay the charge stored on the storage capacitor 24 in dependence on light emitted by the element 20, via the photocurrent generated in the photosensitive element, so as to control the integrated, total, light output of the display element during the remainder of the frame interval following the relevant row address period. The photodiode 34, whose cathode and anode are connected respectively to the line 32 and the gate node of the TFT 22, discharges the gate voltage stored on the capacitor 24 and when the gate voltage on the TFT 22 reaches the TFT's threshold voltage the display element 20 will no longer emit light. The rate at which charge is leaked from the photodiode 34 is a function of the display element light output level so that the photodiode 34 functions as a light sensitive feedback device.

As shown in Figure 2, an isolating TFT 36 may optionally be connected in series between the drive TFT 22 and the LED element 20 and whose gate is connected to the row address line 12. The TFT 36 is an n-channel device which operates in complementary fashion to the address TFT 26 so as to prevent current flow through the element 20 while the pixel is being programmed in the row address period. At the end of the row address period, and the turning off of TFT 26, the TFT 36 is immediately turned on allowing current to flow through the element 20. This operation of the TFT 36 prevents voltage drops occurring along the line 32 during row addressing.

The photodiode feedback arrangement is here used to compensate for the degradational effects of display element aging, whereby the efficiency of its operation in terms of the light output level produced for a given drive current diminishes. Through such degradation display elements that have been driven longer and harder will exhibit reduced brightness, causing display non-uniformities. The photodiode arrangement counteracts these effects by

appropriately controlling the integrated, total, light output from a display element in the drive period. The length of time for which a display element is energized to generate light during the drive period which follows the address period is regulated according to the existing drive current light emission level 5 characteristic of the display element, as well as the level of the applied data signal, such that the effects of degradation are reduced. Degraded, dimmer, display elements will result in the pixel driving circuit energizing the display element for a period longer than that for an un-degraded, brighter, display element so that the average brightness can remain the same over an 10 extended period of time of device operation.

The effectiveness of the operation of this circuit has, however, been found to be diminished by light falling on the photodiode 34 from sources other than the associated display element 20. This unwanted light may be, for example, light emitted by adjacent pixels and reflected internally in the pixel 15 array structure or light emanating from external sources, including ambient light. Moreover, the photodiode 34 inevitably has an inherent leakage current that also tends to degrade the pixel performance.

Figure 3 illustrates the circuit of a typical pixel in the device of Figure 1. In this circuit a compensating photosensitive element is included to correct for 20 photocurrents produced by unwanted light input. The additional photosensitive element is deliberately shielded from light coming directly from the pixel's display element but otherwise exposed to other potential light sources so as to be affected by unwanted light in the same way as the discharge photosensitive element 34. This further photosensitive element thus provides a measure of 25 the unwanted light input which can be used to counteract or cancel the effects of such on the desired operation of the discharge photosensitive element 34 in decaying charge on the storage capacitor 24. This ensures that the feedback arrangement behaves substantially as intended, that is, in response only to the light input from the display element 20.

30 Referring to Figure 3, this further photosensitive element is provided in the form of a second photodiode 40 connected serially with, and with similar polarity to, the discharge photodiode 34 between the line 32 and a reference

potential source such that photocurrents due to unwanted light are cancelled. To this end the cathode side of the photodiode 40 is connected to the anode side of the photodiode 34, corresponding to the gate node of the TFT 22, and its cathode side is connected to a line 42 at a predetermined, negative, 5 reference potential with respect to the line 32, and here at ground potential. The photodiode 40 is physically shielded from light emanating directly from the display element 20 by a light shield 44 and is arranged close to the photodiode 34 so that, apart from the light from the element 20, they experience similar light input from other sources. In operation of this circuit arrangement, the 10 photocurrents generated in the photodiodes 34 and 40 due to unwanted light input thereto, and also the leakage circuits in the photodiodes, flow from the power supply line 32 to ground and do not, therefore, participate in the discharge of the storage capacitor 24. Thus, only the photocurrent generated by light from the display element 20 in the pixel falling on the photodiode 34 15 will serve in operation during the drive period to discharge the storage capacitor 24.

The reference potential line 42 is shared by all pixels in the same row and may in practice conveniently be constituted by a row address conductor 12 associated with an adjacent row of pixels rather than being provided as a 20 dedicated, auxiliary, line. For this purpose, however, the TFTs 26 and 36 are made n and p channel type respectively. It will be appreciated that each row address conductor 12 is held at ground, or a relatively low potential level, for an the entire frame period except for a row address period.

Alternatively, the anode side of photodiode 40 may be connected to the 25 line 30 (common cathode electrode).

Example structures of the device will now be described with reference to Figures 4 and 5 which show highly schematically in cross-section an individual pixel in the case of bottom emission device, in which light output from the pixels is obtained through a glass substrate carrying the pixels, and a 30 top emission device, in which light output is in the opposite direction, away from the substrate.

In both cases, the devices comprise a substrate 50 on which the active matrix circuitry and the LED elements are fabricated using known technology, as will be apparent to skilled persons. Here the active matrix circuitry, comprising pixel TFTs, photodiodes, capacitors, address conductors and 5 voltage lines, is denoted generally at 54 and the structure of the LED element 20, comprising a multi-layer structure of known form, is denoted at 55. The LED structure includes a cathode layer 56 extending over the pixel array and common to all pixels. In the bottom emission device, Figure 4, this comprises light opaque conductive material, and in the top emission device, Figure 5, 10 comprises optically transparent conductive material. The substrate 50 may be of glass, although in the bottom emission structure other suitable transparent materials, such as a transmissive polymer, might be used, and in the top emission structure a non-transparent material, such as a metal foil covered by an insulating layer, could be used.

15 The photodiodes 34 and 40 are arranged physically closely adjacent to one another within the area occupied by the pixel, whose boundaries are here indicated by the dotted lines A and B. These photodiodes are formed as amorphous silicon p i n devices, having a structure comprising p, i and n type amorphous silicon sub-layers with the n type layer being uppermost.

20 With regard to the various arrows shown in Figures 4 and 5, arrow OP presents the display light output from the LED element which contributes to the display image produced, arrows C represent a possible source of cross-talk light, that is, light from any pixel other than the pixel of interest, arrow E represents external, ambient, light falling on the device, and arrows P 25 represent light from the LED element 20 of the pixel directed deliberately onto the photodiode 34.

30 In the structure of Figure 4, the light shield 44 serving to prevent light directly from the LED element 20 falling on the photodiode 40, is provided in the form of a light opaque layer, such as a metal, over the photodiode 40 between the photodiode and the light emission layer of the LED element structure. This metal layer may comprise the top contact of the photodiode 40 or may be additional to the photodiode contact layer. The top contact layer of

the photodiode 34, referenced here at 35, comprises a transparent conductive layer, for example of ITO. Thus, the photodiodes 34 and 40 are both subject to cross-talk and external light inputs, denoted by the arrows C and E, but only the photodiode 34 is subject to direct light from the LED element 20. Light 5 from other sources is common to both photodiodes 34 and 40 and the level of such on each photodiode is substantially identical as a result of their comparatively small size and close proximity to one another.

A similar light shielding layer 44 is used in the structure of Figure 5. In this case, a further light shield, 58, is provided which is arranged on the outer 10 surface of the cathode layer 56 overlying the photodiode 34 to shield it from incoming external light, E, while allowing light directly from the LED element's light emitting layer to fall on the photodiode. This shield 58, which could be extended over the photodiode 40 as well to provide additional shielding for that photodiode, is needed because in this structure the photodiode 40 does not 15 receive light coming in the direction of the arrow E due to the shield 44.

The outer surface of the glass substrate 50 in the Figure 5 structure may be covered with a light opaque, shielding, layer to prevent any unwanted light entering the structure through the substrate 50. This layer would then 20 perform a similar function to the light opaque cathode layer 56 in the structure of Figure 4.

A metal layer that is used in the fabrication of the active matrix circuitry to define conductive elements such as address conductors or voltage lines may conveniently be utilized, by appropriate patterning to define additional regions, to form the shielding layer 44 as well, thereby avoiding the need for 25 an additional metal layer deposition process. The external light shield layer 58 may comprise an appropriately patterned metal or other light opaque layer deposited over the cathode layer 56, and may be of similar form to black matrix layers commonly used in active matrix liquid crystal display devices.

The pixel circuit illustrated in Figure 3 is a preferred example and it is 30 envisaged that the other circuit arrangements for the photodiode 40 may be used.

Moreover, it is also envisaged that photosensitive elements other than photodiodes, may be used, for example photoconductors or photoresistors. Photodiodes are, though, likely to be most effective in the desired operation of the pixel circuit.

5 Examples of other pixel circuits which may be used are illustrated in Figures 6 and 7.

In the pixel circuit of Figure 6, diode-connected TFTs 62, 63 are used to replace the photodiodes 34 and 40, the TFTs 62 and 63 being respectively n – channel and p – channel type devices and whose gates are connected to the 10 lines 32 and 42 respectively. The TFTs 62 and 63 are here sized so as to exhibit substantially the same leakage currents and to generate substantially the same photocurrents in response to their common lights inputs.

The pixel circuit of Figure 7 is similar to that of Figure 3 except that the 15 circuit further includes an additional capacitor 70 connected between the gate of the TFT 22 and the side of the capacitor 24 connected to the node between the photodiodes 34 and 40, and a further TFT 72 connected between the gate and source electrodes of the TFT 22. In this circuit, automatic compensation for variations in the threshold voltage levels of the TFTs 22 in the array is achieved. The capacitor 24 does not store the desired source – gate voltage 20 of the TFT 22 but instead stores an input drive voltage and the series – connected capacitor 70 provides a voltage shift between the capacitor 24 and the gate of TFT 22 dependent on the threshold voltage level of the TFT 22. The capacitor 70 stores this threshold voltage by means of the TFT 72 which is 25 operable to charge the capacitor 70 to the threshold voltage using a current of the TFT 22. The operation of the pixel circuit in this respect is described more fully in British Patent Application No. 0220614.2 (PHGB 020146) to which reference is invited.

The above pixel circuits are all examples of voltage addressed pixels. The invention can also be used with known current addressed pixel 30 implementations, for example using current mirrors.

By way of a further example, the pixel circuit of Figure 3 can be modified to include a further, p type, TFT connected in parallel with the storage

capacitor 24 between the line 32 and the gate of TFT 22 and whose gate is connected to the node between the source electrode of the TFT 2 and the anode of the LED element 20. The operation of this further TFT is dependent on the voltage at the node between the TFT 22 and the LED element 20 and 5 such that when the voltage achieves the threshold level of the further TFT, indicative of the drive current/light output level of the LED element reaching a predetermined low level the TFT is switched on to rapidly discharge the storage capacitor 24, thereby abruptly turning off the drive TFT 22 to curtail light output. This enables more precise control of the pixel's light output, as 10 described in WO 01/20591.

In another embodiment of pixel circuit, separate, first and second, storage capacitors may be used to store respectively the gate voltage of the drive TFT and a charge according to the level of an applied data signal, as 15 described in British Patent Application 0305632.2 (PHGB 030025). In this circuit, the first storage capacitor is charged to a predetermined level in the address phase by means of an additional TFT, whereas the second storage capacitor is charged through the addressing TFT. The second storage capacitor is connected to the gate of a discharge TFT connected across the first storage capacitor, and the charge on this second storage capacitor is 20 used to control the operation of the discharge TFT. A feedback photodiode responsive to the light output from the pixel's display element charges or discharges the second storage capacitor according to the amount of light emitted until the voltage at the gate of the discharge TFT reaches its threshold at which point the discharge TFT is turned on to rapidly discharge the first 25 storage capacitor, and therefore turning off the drive TFT connected to the display element. The pixel circuit is modified, according to the present invention, to include a further photosensitive element, for example a photodiode, which is connected across the second storage capacitor and responsive to light inputs other than from the pixel's display element so as to 30 cancel the effects of these other light inputs on the feedback photodiode. In this circuit, therefore, it will be appreciated that the feedback photodiode is not directly connected to the storage capacitor which stores the gate voltage of the

drive TFT but, through its effect on charging or discharging the second storage capacitor, and thus the operation of the discharge TFT, serves a similar function in discharging the first storage capacitor according to the pixel's light output.

5 From reading the present disclosure, other modifications will be apparent to persons skilled in the art. Such modifications may involve other features which are already known in the fields of active matrix electroluminescent display devices and component parts therefor and which may be used instead of or in addition to features already described herein.

CLAIMS

1. An active matrix electroluminescent display device comprising an array of pixels(10), each pixel comprising:
 - 5 an electroluminescent display element (20);
 - a drive transistor (22) for driving a current through the display element;
 - a storage capacitor (24) for storing a voltage to be used for addressing the drive transistor;
 - 10 a discharge photosensitive element (34) for discharging the storage capacitor in dependence on the light output of the display element; and
 - a further photosensitive element (40) which is shielded from light emitted by the display element (20) while being exposed to light from other directions, and which is connected so as to cancel photocurrents produced in the discharge photosensitive element (34) by light from the other directions.
2. A display device according to Claim 1, wherein the drive transistor (22) is connected between a power supply line (32) and the display element.
- 20 3. A display device according to Claim 2, wherein the discharge photosensitive element (34) is connected in parallel with the storage capacitor (24) between the power supply line (32) and the gate of the drive transistor (22), and wherein the further photosensitive element (40) is connected in series with the discharge photosensitive element between the gate of the drive transistor and a reference potential (42).
4. A display device according to Claim 3, wherein the reference potential is provided by a reference potential line (42) shared by other pixels.
- 30 5. A display device according to Claim 4, wherein the pixels (10) are arranged in rows and columns with each row of pixels having a respective

row address conductor (12) via which the row of pixels is selected in a row address phase, and wherein the pixels of a row share a respective reference potential line (42), and wherein the reference potential line associated with a row of pixels comprises a row address conductor (12) associated with an 5 adjacent row of pixels.

6. A display device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the discharge photosensitive element (34) and the further photosensitive element (40) comprise photodiodes.

10

7. A display device according to any one of Claims 1 to 5, wherein the discharge photosensitive element and the further photosensitive element comprise diode-connected transistors.

15

8. A display device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the pixel further includes an address transistor (26) connected between an input signal line (14) and an input to the pixel coupled to a node between the storage capacitor (24) and the gate of the drive transistor (22).

20

9. A display device according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the device comprises a substrate (50), active matrix circuitry (54) comprising the pixel drive transistors, storage capacitors and photosensitive elements overlying the substrate, and wherein the pixel display elements comprise an electroluminescent layer (55) overlying the active matrix circuitry.

25

10. A display device according to Claim 9, wherein the discharge photosensitive element (34) and the further photosensitive element (40) in each pixel are arranged close together.

30

11. A display device according to Claim 9 or Claim 10, wherein the pixel display elements include a transparent conductive electrode layer (35) between the electroluminescent layer and the active matrix circuitry, wherein a

light shield (44) is arranged in each pixel between the further photosensitive element (40) and the overlying electroluminescent layer to shield the further photosensitive element from light directly from the electroluminescent layer, and wherein the discharge photosensitive element (34) is exposed to light 5 generated in the overlying electroluminescent layer.

12. A display device according to Claim 11, wherein the pixel display elements include a light opaque electrode layer (56) at the side of the electroluminescent layer remote from the active matrix circuitry.

10

13. A display device according to Claim 11, wherein the pixel display elements include a second transparent electrode layer (56) at the side of the electroluminescent layer remote from the active matrix circuitry, and wherein a further light shield (58) is arranged on the second transparent electrode layer 15 and overlying the discharge photosensitive element (34) of a pixel.

1/4

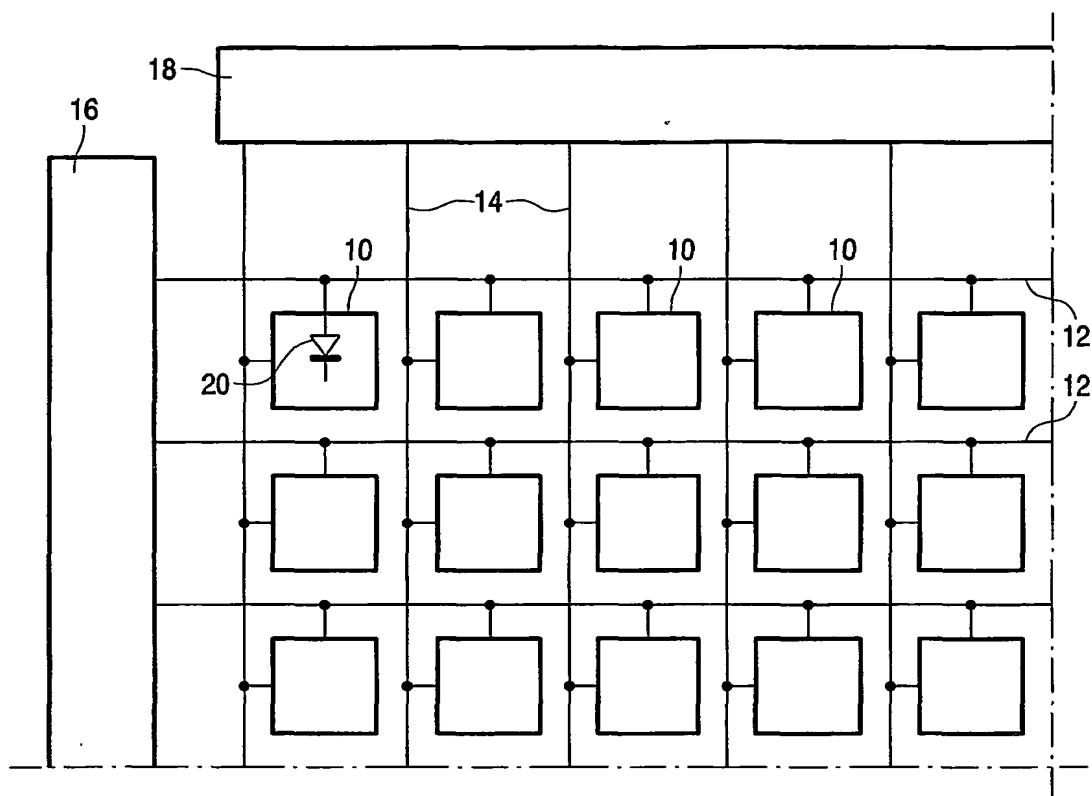


FIG.1

2/4

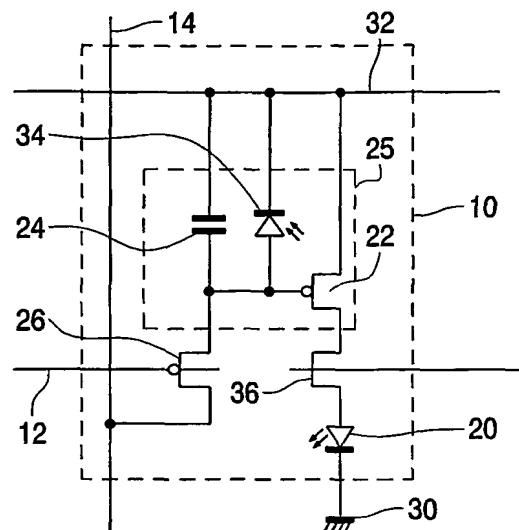


FIG.2

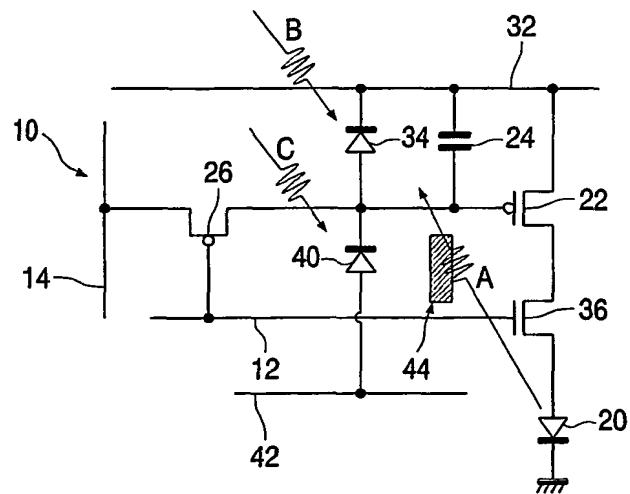


FIG.3

3/4

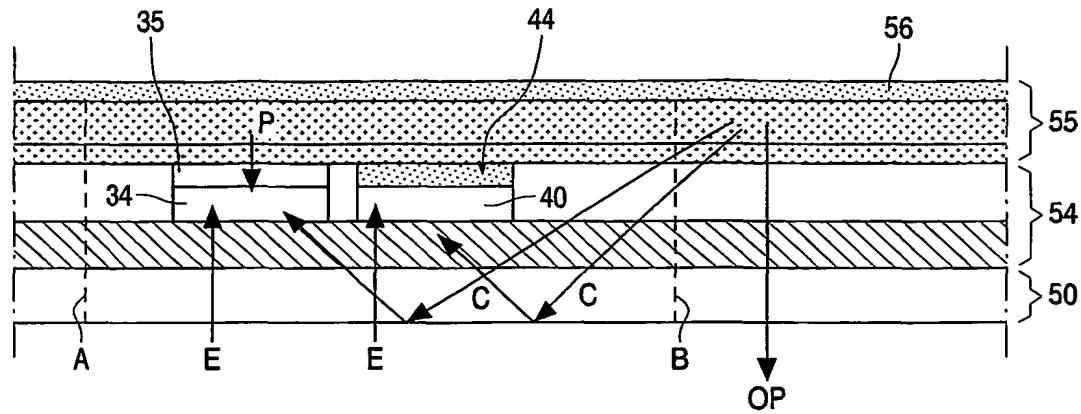


FIG.4

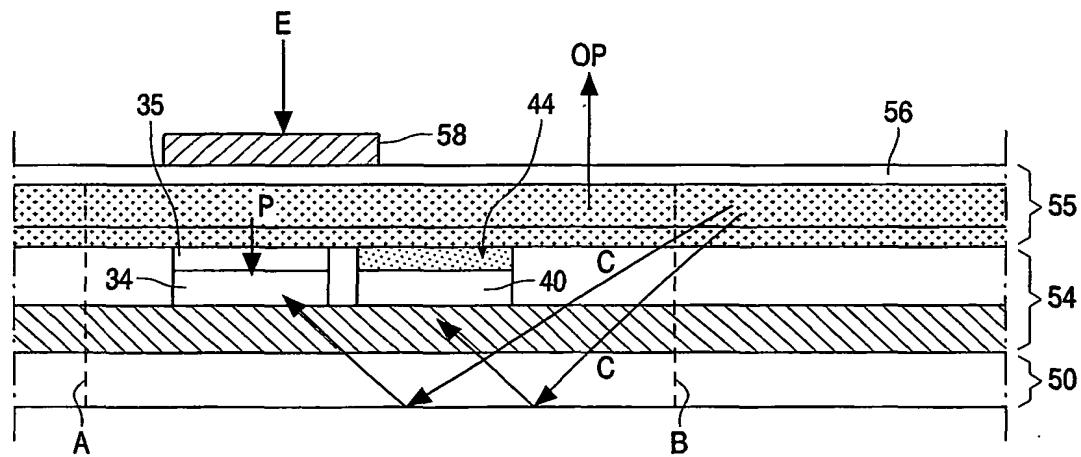


FIG.5

4/4

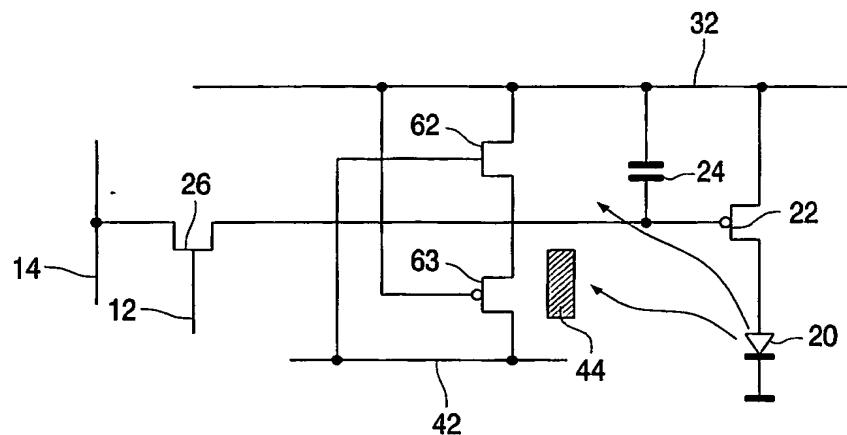


FIG.6

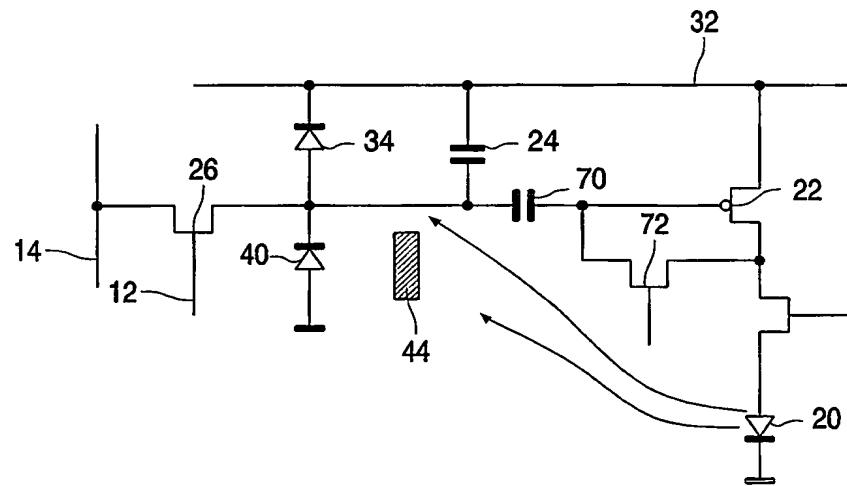


FIG.7

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

/IB2004/000974

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G09G3/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 7 G09G

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category ^o	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	EP 1 194 013 A (EASTMAN KODAK CO) 3 April 2002 (2002-04-03) the whole document	1-13
A	US 2001/035848 A1 (HUNTER IAIN MCINTOSH ET AL) 1 November 2001 (2001-11-01) the whole document	1-13
A	WO 99/53472 A (BURROUGHES JEREMY HENLEY ; CAMBRIDGE DISPLAY TECH (GB); FRIEND RICHARD) 21 October 1999 (1999-10-21) the whole document	1-13
A	US 6 441 560 B1 (HUNTER IAIN M) 27 August 2002 (2002-08-27) the whole document	1-13
		-/-



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

o Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

15 July 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report

27/07/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Harke, M

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORTatational Application No
/IB2004/000974**C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6 489 631 B2 (YOUNG NIGEL D ET AL) 3 December 2002 (2002-12-03) cited in the application the whole document -----	1-13

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

ntional Application No
/IB2004/000974

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)		Publication date
EP 1194013	A 03-04-2002	CN 1347074 A DE 60100732 D1 EP 1194013 A1 JP 2002162934 A US 2004032382 A1		01-05-2002 16-10-2003 03-04-2002 07-06-2002 19-02-2004
US 2001035848	A1 01-11-2001	CN 1364285 T WO 0169583 A1 EP 1188158 A1 JP 2003527630 T TW 518542 B		14-08-2002 20-09-2001 20-03-2002 16-09-2003 21-01-2003
WO 9953472	A 21-10-1999	EP 1072033 A1 WO 9953472 A1 JP 2002511608 T		31-01-2001 21-10-1999 16-04-2002
US 6441560	B1 27-08-2002	WO 0115232 A1 EP 1135804 A1 JP 2004510999 T		01-03-2001 26-09-2001 08-04-2004
US 6489631	B2 20-12-2001	WO 0199191 A1 EP 1222691 A1 JP 2003536115 T US 2001052597 A1		27-12-2001 17-07-2002 02-12-2003 20-12-2001